MR. TAMARAPALLIL KOCHU TOMMAN (*Pattanamtitta*): ഇൻകംടാക്സിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഇതിനുമുമ്പു ഫൈനാൻസ് വ്യ-ൽ കായംകുളം കോട്ടയം എന്നീസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ പ്രതിനിധികൾ പലവിധമായ പരാതികളെ പ്രജാസഭയിൽ പ്രസ്താപിക്കുകയും അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കമ്മീഷണരോട് ചട്ടം കെട്ടിയാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്ന് ആവശ്യപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഫൈനാൻ അവസാനിക്കാറായിട്ടും ഒരേർപ്പാടും ചെയ്തതായി കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇതും അതുപോലെ ആകാതിരുന്നാൽ കൊള്ളാം. ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള വ്യാപാരികൾ വെറും വ്യാപാരികൾ മാത്രമല്ല. അവർ കൃഷിയും മറ്റുതൊഴിലുകളുംകൂടി സ്വീകരിച്ച് ഉപജീവനം കഴിക്കുന്നവരാണ്. അവർക്കു കൊടുക്കൽവാങ്ങലിൽ കിട്ടാത്തതായ പല അയിറവും കണ്ടേക്കാം. അതിനുംകൂടി അസസ്സ് ചെയ്യുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിനെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു പദ്ധതി താമസംവിനാ ചെയ്യുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ പിൻവലിക്കുന്നതിനു അനുവാദം ചോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: Does the House permit the member to withdraw his motion?

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The following motions were not moved:—

Motions 66 to 70.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI:

66. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 17,220 under Demand II by Re. 1.

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE:

67. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 17,220 under Demand II by Rs. 5.

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI:

68. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 17,220 under Demand II by Rs. 5.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED:

69. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 17,220 under Demand II by Rs. 10.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI:

70. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 17,220 under Demand II by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,220 be granted under Demand II—Taxes on Income.

The grant was made.

DEMAND III—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 6,43,245 under Demand III Excise Department.

Motions 71 and 72.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. D. C. JOSEPH:

71. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,100 for Travelling Allowance.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI:

72. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,345 for Salt Factories by Re. 1.

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Motion 73.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,345 for Salt Factories by Re. 1.

My object in tabling this motion is to discuss the necessity for adequate supply of pure brine to the factories and of giving legitimate *kudivaram* and *kudivila* to the licensees of the Monopoly Salt Factories in South Travancore. In my Budget speech the other day, I have placed before the House in a general manner the loss that the Government are incurring for the last 20 years, that is, a sum of one lakh of rupees per annum is the loss incurred by Government.

Sir, in South Travancore there are only three sources from which salt is manufactured, that is sea water, pit brine and the water from the Pazhayar river. This is *aqua* pure and simple. The manufacture of salt chiefly consists in evaporating the available salt water supplied in the pans. Sir, sea water has got a density of 3 degrees and pit brine has an average density of 3 degrees. But when we come to the Pazhayar river water, it has a zero degree density. In the case of Monopoly factories, in south Travancore, there is the old allom and the *Puthallam*. The available brine or water that is used for manufacture of salt is the Pazhayar water which has got no salt contents in it. But, members will be surprised to know how they are manufacturing salt out of this pure water. When the water is first let in the reservoir of the old allom and the *Puthallam*, that reservoir dissolves some salt matter. It takes something like 15 days to get a density of three degrees. So the pure salt water takes 6 or 7 days to get the contents crystalised. The same case is with the pit brine also. In the matter of the Pazhayar water which is adulterated with some salt, this also takes 7 days to deposit salt. Now the sea water contains a greater percentage of salt, say, to the extent of 30 per cent. Pit brine contains only a less quantity, that is, only 20 per cent and thus the adulterated Pazhayar water contains even less, that is, 15 per cent.

In the factories where pit brine and water are available the labourers go in large numbers because they manufacture salt in seven days whereas, with the Pazhayar water in the *Puthallam* and the old allom only in fifteen days we can get some salt deposited. So, there is great difficulty for getting labour in these Monopoly factories, because of the inadequate supply of brine.

It was only some fifteen years back that these brine pits were discovered. The density of that is from 7 to 9 degrees. Now we understand that it is losing in density day after day and year after year. So, it is quite likely that in another 15 years this brine will lose its density entirely. So, there is no possibility of taking salt from this brine even.

Now salt water is available in its pure condition only in the Variyur allom in south Travancore. Unfortunately, this is a very small plot of ground having an area of 4·42 acres when compared with other allomes in south Travancore. There are even allomes having an area of 471 odd acres.

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We have only to take the idea that the alloms in south Travancore do not get pure brine for salt manufacture. There are 467 acres of lands under salt manufacture and all these have to depend on the brine supply from pit brine or from the Pazhayar water.

Coming to the manufacture of salt, on an average we get salt for six months in every year. With good sea water we are scraping salt every week and so we will get salt four times in a month. So, on an average, in a year there will be 48 scrapings from the pans. With sea brine, it is possible to get 3 maunds of salt from every cent of land. In every year it will be possible to get something like 35 lakhs of maunds of salt. Making a very large margin, it is possible to get 50 per cent every season. And it will be possible to get at least 17 lakhs of maunds per annum. Our State requires only 12 lakhs of maunds for our consumption. We are now producing only 6 lakhs and the rest we have to import from foreign land.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I may tell the member that this year we were able to produce 8 lakhs of maunds of salt in spite of unseasonal weather.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): During the Purattasi *Pani* we had a large interval. That is a good season. Generally the Purattasi *Pani* begins from the 1st or the 15th Chingam. Last year it began from Karkatakam 1103. So it was possible to get more.

Instead of producing for our requirements every year and instead of exporting salt, we are importing six lakhs of maunds every year. This is very regrettable, when we know that there is every possibility of producing enough salt for our consumption. The only thing that we have to see is that there should not be inadequate supply of brine. It is the duty of Government to supply pure brine to the Monopoly Factories of South Travancore. As per the agreement it is not very difficult to supply that. This is a standing grievance for the last 40 or 50 years. Even before 1058 Government said that they will take steps for supplying more brine, but nothing has been done to ensure an adequate supply of brine till now. I think the present Commissioner will address the Government and the Chief Engineer to find out ways and means by which there will be an unfailing supply of brine every year.

But, anyhow, the Government are losing a sum of about a lakh of rupees per annum, and also there is the unemployment problem for labouring classes. In view of all these, I think it is the duty of the Government, to see that brine is supplied at the earliest possible date. So far, regarding the question of brine supply. Then, coming to the question of *kudivaram*, I have got a great lot to say. But, as it is time I do not open it now.

PRESIDENT: You have got more time.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): The Government are bound to give two-fifths of the selling price of salt to the licensees of the Monopoly Factories, especially the old alloms. The selling price of salt is now nearly Rs. 2 per maund, in Alleppey and in Trivandrum. It is only about 10 As. in the factory.

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The cost is 30 As. per maund including duty.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): The selling price of salt is 30 As. per maund, that is Rs. 3-12-0 for 2 maunds. I was mistaken, thank you. If you give 60 As. you will be able to get 2 maunds of salt. So, the price is 30 As. per maund.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): 30 As. per maund including salt duty.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): I do not know that. The point is, we have to spend 30 As. to get one maund of salt. Whether it is the duty or anything else, I am not concerned with. The licensees of the old alloms are entitled to get two-fifths of that according to the agreement. They are entitled to two-fifths of this, that is, 12 As. per maund. So, the licensees of the old alloms are entitled to get 12 As. per maund. Instead of that, they are now getting only $2\frac{1}{2}$ As. As I said, the labourers are able to get more benefits by manufacturing salt in the old alloms with the Pazhayar water. Therefore, the licensees are not able to get any labourers.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Does my friend advocate the Monopoly system?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): I am not advocating the Monopoly system. I simply say that, under the existing agreements, the licensees of the Monopoly Factories, the old alloms, are entitled to get two-fifths of the selling price of salt.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Does he advocate the Monopoly system or the Excise system?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): What is the use of this or that system? What I want is that the licensees should be given 12 As. instead of $2\frac{1}{2}$ As.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know from my friend whether he would advocate the Monopoly system if the licensees are given this right.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): What is the use of any system? You may have the Monopoly system, the modified Excise system, or the Excise system. My point is that, under the Monopoly system the licensees *are* entitled to get more than what they are actually paid now. Therefore, I am fighting for our share, our due share.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Granting that, are you for continuing the Monopoly system?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): If the licensees are given 12 As. per maund, I think nobody will have any objection to have the existing Monopoly system.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Which is more advantageous?

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MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): You want more than what you get now. You say that is your right. If you are given the right, then it is all right.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Which is more advantageous to the consumer?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Everything is the same to the consumer, the Excise system, the modified Excise system, or the Monopoly system. The question to be settled is only between the Government and the licensees. Under the agreement the licensees get two-fifths of the selling price of salt; and in view of the difficulties they are undergoing in the matter of getting labour and in view of the loss which the Government were incurring for the last so many years on account of the depression in the salt industry, I wish that this two-fifths of the selling price of salt, *i. e.*, 12 As., must be given to them.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): I rise to suport the motion of Mr. V. Chellam Pillai. It is my bounden duty to support it, because the majority of salt factories are in my constituency, that is, the Agastisvaram Taluk. I must say, the Government have done the greatest harm to the salt industry in Travancore. There are two reasons. The first is, they have recklessly registered the lands adjoining the banks of the Pazhayar river in the names of influential persons. The Director of Industries during the last 16 years has done nothing in this direction.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether they have narrowed the course of the Pazhayar river or the extent of the Manakudi lake?

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): In both ways they have done the mischief.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Kilavankod*): Why do they do this mischief?

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): Because the Government want to get money by the easiest possible way.

Mr. Chellam Pillai has explained before the House everything in detail, and I do not like to enter into all those things, but I want to make a few observations.

The factories are still there. They have also increased the salt area. But, there is this disadvantage. Government have not made any arrangement to increase the supply of brine. After the improvement of wet cultivation, fresh water percolation has increased considerably. Government have not done anything to stop it. But the supply of brine has not increased. They are giving special staff to the old factories and something else to the new factories. I do not know whether the Salt Rules allow all these things. Anyhow, the salt industry has been stifled by Government. Practically nothing has been done to improve the industry. Anybody—I know Dr. Madhavan Pillai, a member of this Council, very recently visited the salt factories—who visits these factories would be surprised to see their condition. No maramath work is being done in the old factories. Something is being done to the new factories,

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MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know from the member whether that something done to the new factories is done by the Government or by the licensees themselves ?

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : As the licensees of the new factories are getting an increased rate, they might have done it.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : Has the member any idea of the works that have now been done ?

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : I have little idea about that. Probably, there is still some work to be done.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : Under the circumstances, does the member think that the opinion expressed by him is correct or justifiable ?

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : I still justify the opinion expressed by me because, I am not satisfied with the *Maramath* works done in the *old* factories.

We are importing a large quantity of salt from outside. If our salt industry is developed properly, we can, Sir, easily stop the import of salt from outside ; and not only that if the salt industry is developed considerably, the old licensees also could improve their factories. I have placed before the House the grievances of the salt licensees and I think something will be done for the improvement of the salt industry in South Travancore. With these words, I support the motion brought forward by my friend.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know from the member whether the licensees in Puthallam are doing any *Maramath* work?

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : They are not doing any *Maramath* work.

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. ഇതു ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് വളരെ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. പഞ്ചസാര ഇല്ലാതെ ഒരു മനുഷ്യനു ജീവിക്കാൻസാധിക്കും. എന്നാൽ ഉപ്പുകൂടാതെ ഒരുത്തക്കും ജീവിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. അത്രത്തോളം പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള ഈ ആഹാരസാധനത്തിനു നാം അന്യരാജ്യത്തെ ആശ്രയിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തേക്കു ആവശ്യമുള്ള ഉപ്പു മുഴുവനും ഇവിടത്തന്നെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സകല സൌകര്യങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അന്യരാജ്യത്തെ നാം ആശ്രയിക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതു വളരെ പരിതാപകരമായ ഒരവസ്ഥയാണു്. ഈ കഴിഞ്ഞയാണ്ടിൽ ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഉപ്പിന്റെ കണക്കു് അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽനിന്നു വരിച്ചു കാണുന്നു. ഫാക്ടറി ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടാക്കീട്ടുള്ള ഗോഡൌൺ, കുഴി, തുറന്നുവെച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന മണ്ണം ബാംബെസാംപ്പിൾ, കുന്നു, ഫാക്ടറിയിലെ തിരുനൽവേലി സാംപ്പിൾ, ഓരു, വർഷത്തിലെ മണ്ണംആകുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞ

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കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ആകെ പുറമേനിന്നു വരുത്തിയതുപ്പടെ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ഫ്രന്റർ മന്നു് ഉപ്പു ചിലവായിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): കഴിഞ്ഞ ആണ്ടിൽ വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള ഉപ്പു് ഈ ആണ്ടത്തേക്കും കൂടി വിനിയോഗിക്കുമെന്നു അറിയാമൊ?

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI (*Shertallai*): ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു ഫ്രന്റർ ചിലവായിട്ടുള്ളതിന്റെ കണക്കാണു്. അതിൽ ഹോം സാൾട്ടു് ഫ്രന്റർ ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടായതിനെക്കാൾ ഫ്രന്റർ നു, ന്, ഫ്രന്റ മന്നു് കൂടുതൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നു. ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്കു ശ്രമിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തേക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള ഉപ്പു വേണ്ടുവോളം ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ വിളയിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു് അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടുതന്നെ പരിശോധിച്ചു് എഴുതീട്ടുള്ള പ്രൊസീഡിങ്ങ്സിൽ താഴെ വിവരിക്കുന്ന ഭാഗംകൊണ്ടു കാണാം.

"The Excise Commissioner expects that if the problem of brine supply is satisfactorily solved, the outturn of the south Travancore factories would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the State. The Chief Engineer is devising methods to secure an adequate supply of brine for the alloms. Government however regret to note that there is general apathy on the part of the licensees to develop the industry."

ഇതിൽനിന്നു്, ഇവിടെ ആവശ്യമുള്ളടത്തോളം ഉപ്പു് ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളടത്തോളം എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർതന്നെ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അപ്പോൾ കുറെ കൂടി ശ്രമിക്കുകയും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇവിടെ ആവശ്യമുള്ളിടത്തോളമൊ അതിൽ കൂടുതലൊ ഉപ്പു ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കണക്കനുസരിച്ചു് ഏറ്റവുലക്ഷത്തോളം മന്നു ഉപ്പുമാത്രമെ അന്യരാജ്യത്തുനിന്നും വരുത്തുന്നതിൽ ഇവിടെ ചിലവാകുന്നുള്ളു. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചു ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ആവശ്യമുള്ള ഉപ്പു മുഴുവനും ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ നിഷ്കർഷയായ വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): Sir, in supporting the motion before the House, I have to place before the House the following suggestions. The Excise Report, Appendix, page 14, gives the actual rainfall of the various limits and other details also are given. The actual selling price of salt, home salt, is also given in the Report. At Alleppey the price is Rs. 2-3-0; at Trivandrum, Port Salt Depot, the price is Re. 1-15-0 and

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[Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai.]

Re. 1-14-0 at the Tamaracolam Salt Factories. In this affair, I bring to the notice of Government that, as far as possible, so far as transport charges are concerned, the Government themselves should meet these expenses and see that the home salt is sold at the same price in all the three centres. I suggest this for the encouragement of the industry.

The second suggestion is that though the Excise Department as well as the Government have taken enough care to improve the industry. Unfortunately, somehow or other, Mr. Vipan is bothered with a lot of works and as the Chief Engineer, he is not in a position to turn out good work because he has got too much for one man to do. I request Government to appoint another Engineer in charge of irrigation and such things as the improvement of the salt factories. There is no use in laying the blame on the Excise Commissioner.

In the report, on page 14, it is stated that the Chief Engineer Mr. Vipan, is making arrangements for the necessary works to be carried out.

Sir, prior to the Kodayar project there was not so much of percolation. For instance, the Colachel Allom which yields now 506 marands, was originally—I have heard it from my elders—yielding even 50 times as much as we get at present. Some little drainage work, some drainage channels, drains or something like that, to see that the percolation does not come from the Kodayar side, must be done immediately. Much of engineering skill is not required. I would most emphatically urge for the consideration of Government the desirability of deputing a special Engineer for these matters. We have got several Engineers in our Public Works Department. We do not want big Engineers for the so-called road-shaving business. (*Laughter*).

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is it done by the Engineers?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): We have got special Division Officers for that. We could depute such expert Engineers for this work. We do not want such Engineers for street work. So, I would request Government to see that such experts are appointed for these works.

As one of my friends said, that the present President is a native of Travancore, I think I may tell him—

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kesava Pillai, you may leave out personal references to any person.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): Salt is the most important item. 50 per cent of the salt we require is imported from ouside. So, I would request the Excise Commissioner to make a proposal to Government that some help should be done to the poor contractors by arranging for the sale of salt in the various places at a fixed price. Foreign contractors from Bombay, Tinnevelly and other places, should not be encouraged.

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MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I would also support the motion, so ably moved by Mr. Chellam Pillai, illustrating his position with facts and figures. Mr. Kesava Pillai has made a number of suggestions; but I would make only one suggestion, namely, that a salt expert should be put in charge of our salt factories. Now, I do not know, whether Mr. Gomatinayakam Pillai is a salt expert; and I believe that the Assistant Excise Commissioner in immediate charge of the works at the factories has also not acquired any scientific knowledge of the salt industry.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member the use of an expert when there is not sufficient material to produce salt?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know what the member means by the word material? Does he refer to brine?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Yes.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): But the supply of brine could be improved if an expert is appointed to look after the work. Now, what is being done is, the whole industry is placed in the hands of one who does not possess any technical or scientific knowledge of the industry. My submission is that unless an expert, who has acquired some scientific experience in the manufacture of salt, is appointed to supervise the works we cannot substantially improve the salt industry.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Does he want an Excise Commissioner who has acquired sufficient knowledge of the salt industry; or would he be satisfied with a salt expert?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I shall even be satisfied with an Assistant Excise Commissioner with sufficient training in that field at Bombay or Calcutta or Madras or at any other proper place.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether there is any officer in the Excise Department who has been trained in the salt industry?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I do not think that at present there is any. There was one Mr. Nilakantan who is said to have had some experience in salt industry. He does not seem to have had proper training in the matter and he has now retired. I think Mr. Gomatinayakam Pillai will be able to answer that question more correctly.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will he take it from me that there are two persons, one Mr. Armugam Pillai and another Mr. Narayana Aiyar who are trained in salt industry?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): What are their names?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Armugam Pillai and Narayana Aiyar.

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MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Mr. Pachu Pillai quoted some figures. I shall also quote some figures. In 1102, the total consumption of salt was about 11,27,531 maunds. In 1103 it was 11,81,048 maunds, whereas the production of home salt was, in 1102 6,68,991 maunds, and in 1103, 9,87,515 maunds. Certainly, it is gratifying to note that the department has paid some attention to the production of salt; but this is not sufficient. My submission is that it is the duty of every civilised Government to push up its resources, especially in such matters as salt, to meet the demands of the people in their entirety and to be self-contained. Now, the appointment of a salt expert as I suggested, I believe, will go a long way to mend matters. Mr. Pachu Pillai said that we are not consuming all the quantity of salt that is being manufactured. It is true; I think it is probably due to the fact that the Tinnevelly salt and Bombay salt that we are importing are superior to our home salt. There is apparently a special attraction for Bombay salt.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): Is the member aware that our home salt is superior to Bombay or Tinnevelly salt?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): To some extent that depends upon the taste of the individual. To arrive at a proper solution of this question, I think it must be referred to a salt expert. In the Administration Report of the Excise Department for the year 1102, the Commissioner says that if the Rajakkamangalam and Colachel alloms were paid proper attention to, they would produce the quantity of salt necessary for our State. And from the same report I see that in Rajakkamangalam in the year 1102, the quantity of salt produced was only 2,023 maunds, whereas, in 1103 it was 2,889 maunds. In the Colachel Allom it is 1106 maunds for 1103. My submission is that these figures denote very little so far as the development of these alloms is concerned. Sufficient attention has to be bestowed on the development of these two alloms in the interest of the public. In these circumstances, I submit that the spade work for a proper solution of all these questions is the appointment of a salt expert. It would also solve the question of the better supply of brine. With these few words, I support the motion brought forward by my friend.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, there are ten factories at Tamarakulam, four on the western side of the Manakudi lake and six on the eastern side. Out of these four on the western side one is *Puthallom*. In the remaining three factories there are good brine pits. The supply of brine there is both steady and plentiful, and the factories concerned are working in a tolerably good condition. But the fact is otherwise so far as *Puthallom* is concerned. There the want of supply of brine is very keenly felt. Coming then to the eastern side of the Manakudi lake, there are two factories, the Company's factory and the Avathanigal's factory in which there are brine pits; but the supply is not reported to be steady or sufficient. Then there remains what is called the Monopoly fac-

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tory *i. e.*, Tamarakulam old allom and other factories close to it. With regard to these factories it is true, there is some complaint about want of brine. But the point to note is this. In all the factories in which the licensees do take some interest, there is brine. In such of those factories in which the licensees do not take any interest, there is serious complaint about want of brine. Even in regard to Tamarakulam old allom itself, there are brine pits here and there but no attention has been paid by the licensees to develop these pits.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : How many brine pits are there which have got some springs in them ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : In Tamarakulam old allom ?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Yes.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I am not aware of the exact number. I am sure there are four or five.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know what is the extent of the area of these pits in the Tamarakulam old allom ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : 46·91 acres. Down south, Sir, there is the Variyoor allom, a very small allom of about 4 and odd acres, where the brine supply is plentiful, and the factory is also worked in a tolerably good condition. Coming to Rajakkamangalam allom there has not been much brine supply for the last some years, and even then I am glad to say that with the little supply we had, we were able to manufacture 8,313 maunds of salt during this year.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : May I know the out-turn of Colachel allom ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I am coming to that. Now in the factories of Rajakkamangalam there is very great difficulty about supply of brine. There are two reserviors, one outer and the other inner. The brine of the outer reservior is being constantly corrupted by the free flow of fresh water from the *Azhangal*, drainage channel. That has been the trouble all along. Attempts are being made to divert this fresh water channel. There is a proposal, for example, to divert the *Azhangal* by assuming some land so that it may not empty itself into the outer basin.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether at any time previous to this the *Azhangal* was diverted ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, it was diverted once but not very successfully. The diversion proved a failure. Another channel is also proposed to be cut which will divert all the drainage of the uplands without allowing it to fall into the outer basin and making it empty itself into the sea. Sir, this diversion naturally may take some time. We have to acquire lands for the purpose and take much trouble. Coming to the Colachel allom—

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MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): Could not the lands be acquired under the urgency clause?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, that is being considered. In the Colachel allom we had some supply of brine this year, and so we were able to manufacture 1000 maunds of salt. Really we should have been able to manufacture much more than this, but the intermittent rains stood in the way, and we were unable to do much there. Sir, in spite of these difficulties we were able to manufacture 10 lakhs of maunds last year, as I said before. That is the largest on record, and even this year, though I did not expect very much, the figure goes up to close on 8 lakhs of maunds, that is, till the close of Mithunam. The manufacture of salt should have commenced early enough this month. I suppose some more thousands could have been manufactured there. As regards the brine supply it is not a question which can be easily solved by my department alone. Mr. Ponniya Nadar of Rajakkamangalam, a salt licensee, tried a sort of pumping installation, but I am informed that it proved a failure. But that is not the last word to be said about it. There is a place in Ceylon called Elephant pass which is somewhere near Jaffna, where I am told sea water is pumped straight from the sea into the factories. That is one clear instance to show that it is possible to get brine supply from the sea by artificial means.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is it not possible to pump sea water with the help of the pier?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): That is what I am coming to. It is for the Chief Engineer to say whether pumping sea water to the factories will prove a success. Anyhow, I may tell the House that the matter of the supply of good and wholesome brine to the factories is engaging the serious attention of Government. It is to the interest of Government and the licensees alike to see that there is plenty of supply of salt. Nobody is interested in importing foreign salt.

Then a word about the licensees. The remarks made on the other side of the House rather imply that the fault lies solely on the Government; but I have to say that the licensees do not co-operate with us as much as they could. They quarrel among themselves and with Government for nothing. When I assumed charge of the department, there was the salt licensees' Syndicate. That was doing some good work for some time, that is, for over a year. After wards it broke up. Then they formed themselves into a co-operative association. At the beginning they elected office bearers and dispersed. Thereafter I heard nothing about that association.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know the reason why these licensees are not taking a keen interest in the production of salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I think they are the proper persons to answer that question.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Excise Commissioner as head of the department has made any enquiry as to why the licensees are idle and whether he has tried to remedy such a state of things?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I did make enquiries. It is due more to their apathy and indifference and nothing else.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Can anything be done to make them more enthusiastic for the production of local salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): We are trying to rouse them up.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): By advice or propaganda?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is there any possibility of creating similar alloms like the Variyur allom in its neighbourhood?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): There was a factory there already.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is there any possibility of having similar factories there in the neighbourhood?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): There was one other factory at Thattārippu *Odai*.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): My question is whether under the existing condition with reference to the brine supply, which the Variyur allom is having there, there is any possibility of having one or two factories more in the vicinity of Variyur?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): No, Sir. At some distance from Variyur there was one and it was abandoned.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is it not the rule that when Government salt remains unsold, the licensees cannot sell any salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): There is no such rule. The point is this. We do not usually sell Government salt at Thamarakulam.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): I want only an answer, if a private individual can sell salt when Government salt remains. Is the private individual prohibited from selling his salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): There is no such prohibition. I shall explain it. There is an allom called *Puthallom* and when salt does not find sale there, we have to close the other factories for a few days, so that the other may sell. That does not necessarily mean that we prohibit sales for any length of time. Just in the interest of progress of works in the *Puthallom*, we have to close other factories.

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MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Are not the licensees hampered by the competition for sale of salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Not much Sir. We close the factories only for a few days.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): There is another point. Under receipts under salt recoveries on account of charges, you have budgetted for 3 lakhs of rupees; while under transport charges of salt you propose to incur only an expenditure of 1 lakh of rupees. So, are you making a profit of two hundred per cent in the sale of salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not really a profit. The item under recovery does not cover transport charges alone. It covers some other items also.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know on what basis or data this figure of 3 lakhs and more on account of recovery charges incurred in the sale of salt has been estimated?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): On the basis of calculation of the sale of salt in previous years.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know what are the other factors that are taken into account in this?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): We have to pay the price of Bombay and Tinnevelly salt. All that should be included.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Your revenue in 1103 was Rs. 3,78,657. You are only proposing to raise 3 lakhs next year. What is this difference due to?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I don't quite follow.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): You have actually realised 3,78,657 rupees in 1103.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Under recoveries?

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Receipts under recoveries. But I think, you propose to recover only 3 lakhs next year. What is the difference due to?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The difference is due to the fact that we are not importing as much salt as we did last year.

Sir, continuing—

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): If you are not importing more salt, why should you want 1 lakh of rupees next year?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I said we are not importing as much salt as we did last year.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Then why not a reduction in the transport charges?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Transport charges are quite different from recoveries. Transport charges are meant for transporting our own salt from Tamarakulam to Alleppey, Quilon and Trivandrum, but recoveries, as I said, included not only the charges of transporting this salt but also the price of Bombay and Tinnevelly salt. I suppose I am clear.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): The item "recoveries on account of charges incurred in the sale of salt," does it contemplate the price fetched by the sale of salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Is not the price we actually pay to the contractor, a charge on the salt? I believe it is.

Mr. Chellam Pillai suggested that *Kudivila* for the salt is very low. I am sorry he made a very serious miscalculation. The actual price of salt due to the licensee is 10 annas per maund and not Re. 1-14 annas or 30 annas as he said. One rupee four annas is the duty on the salt manufactured. That is a Sovereign right and nobody has got a right to share with the Government the Sovereign right or the salt duty. What remains is the price of salt, that is, 10 annas.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): At page 39 of the Administration Report for 1102 it is said that the price of salt in the Trivandrum Depot was fixed at Bh Re. 1 annas 15 per maund. I wish to know what would be the transport charges per maund from Tamarakulam to Trivandrum?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I think it is somewhere about 27 rupees per 100 maunds.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): That is four annas per maund.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): More than four annas.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Say, five annas. So 1 rupee 10 annas is the selling price of salt. I wish to know whether they are making any profit out of the sale of salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Not much profit.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Then it comes to 1 rupee 10 annas at Tamarakulam.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Chellam Pillai, you don't seem to have appreciated Mr. Gomatinayakam Pillai's position that the price of salt has to be distinguished from the price at which it is sold to the consumer; because the latter price is inclusive also of the duty or monopoly which the Government are taking, and the price out of which the licensee is entitled to a share is actually the price of salt exclusive of duty which the Government are entitled to. That seems to be the distinction that he makes.

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Mr. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Kerala*): Sir, the report says that "in the case of the salt factories the licensees used to be paid the price of salt manufactured by them at 12 chs. 67 annas per maund on the *kudi-varam* or licensee's share of the salt which is 40 per cent of the total quantity manufactured. The remaining 60 per cent of the salt was taken by Government as the *melvaram* (duty) without payment." *Melvaram* is the duty and *kudivaram* is the licensee's share.

Mr. P. GOWATINATAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Far from it. The duty does not come to them at all.

Mr. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Kerala*): Anyhow, here in the report, it is stated that the remaining 60 per cent of the salt was taken by the Government as the *melvaram* (duty) without payment. So the duty is included in the *melvaram*.

Mr. P. GOWATINATAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): May I know what the member is reading?

Mr. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Kerala*): The Administration Report for 1088.

Mr. P. GOWATINATAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Please quote the page.

Mr. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Kerala*): Page 36, para 41, line 11.

Mr. P. GOWATINATAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): We can't make much of what is stated there, Sir, probably it is inserted there to make others understand what the matter is. It is not Salt Rules or the Salt Regulations and so we can't say much about it. Moreover that seems to refer to something which took place before the Salt Rules and the Regulations, and not after.

Mr. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Kerala*): May I know whether the Salt Regulations has affected in any way the share of the licensees?

Mr. P. GOWATINATAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. It has. It is now the Salt Regulation and the Rules that apply and not anything else.

Sir, The Tamankulam salt licensees were paid only 7½ chackrams before. But on their complaint that they were not able to compete successfully with other licensees it was gradually raised from 7½ chackrams to 10½ chackrams or so and now it stands at 12½ chackrams. There the matter stands.

Mr. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neyyattinkara*): May I know from the Government—

Mr. P. GOWATINATAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): As I am interrupted I am not able to go on, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Gowatinatakam Pillai will be available for all questions at the end of his speech.

Mr. P. GOWATINATAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai complained about the selling price of salt in different places. He wants that salt should be sold in all places, Trivandrum, Quilon and Alleppey, at much the same rate. It appears to me,

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Sir, to be extremely unfair for this reason. In the transport of salt to these places, Government incur a large amount of expenditure and they have to keep a depot and staff there and incur besides several items of expenditure; and over and above this, there is this additional difficulty. Granting for argument's sake Government are pleased to sell their salt at Alleppey and Quilon at the rate which prevails at Tamarakulam, thus the salt licensees will be ruined. They have to transport their salt to all these places at much expense and sell it and they cannot do this at the above rate without incurring considerable loss to themselves. They have necessarily to include the transport charges and sell it at a higher rate. If we compete with them and sell our salt at lower rates, I doubt whether the factories will remain there even for a year. So, my submission is that the selling prices of salt in these depots are well-regulated. The price at Tamarakulam is Re. 1-14 per maund, at Trivandrum it is Re. 1-15 *i. e.*, only one anna more than the price at Tamarakulam. At Quilon it is, I believe, Rs. 2-1-6 pies, and at Alleppey it is Rs. 2-3-6 pies. Messrs. T. C. Kesava Pillai and N. K. Krishna Pillai made a valuable suggestion regarding the culture of salt *i. e.*, to improve the quality and quantity of the salt. These suggestions will receive my anxious consideration, and I shall try to do as much as possible to increase the outturn of salt in the factories, so that the State may be self-sufficient so far as salt supply is concerned.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): The Commissioner said that the salt produced in this country is not fit for consumption until after the lapse of a certain amount of time. Has he got scientific authority behind that opinion?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I don't think, Sir, that any scientific opinion is necessary. I have seen salt stored on platforms with my own eyes; it gets awfully bad in three or four years.

PRESIDENT: That was not the question. Please repeat your question, Mr. Madhavan Pillai.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): He said it is only after the expiry of some time after the manufacture of salt that it is fit for consumption and that it cannot be used immediately after manufacture.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): That fact is not true, and I never said anything like that.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): He said that salt manufactured this year can be issued only next year.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Salt as soon as it is manufactured will not be quite dry. That does not mean that it cannot be used. It is better to use it after it is quite dry.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): How long does it take to get it dry?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : It depends upon weather conditions.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : There arises the question, when, at the close of 1103 you had a much larger quantity of salt in stock, why was another 8000 maunds imported in 1104 ? Then you had at the close of 1103 nearly 15 lakhs of maunds.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : No, no.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : What was the quantity remaining at the close of 1103 ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I think it was 10 lakhs of maunds. That was the outturn during the whole year. Part of it should have been consumed during the year.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : What is the average quantity needed for consumption every year taking the average for 3 years for the whole State ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : It is somewhere between 11 and 12 lakhs of maunds.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : At the end of 1103 was there not quantity more than sufficient for yearly consumption ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : The quantity of 10 lakhs of maunds was the total out turn of salt from all the factories put together. That does not necessarily mean that the quantity was available for issue during next year. A good portion of it ought to have been consumed during the year itself.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : How often has the inner reservoir in the old allom to be filled in a month when all the pans in that allom are working satisfactorily ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I am not quite sure.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : May I know whether his department has ever considered the question of opening new alloms in any other part of Travancore ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : Not to my knowledge.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Which is superior, home salt or foreign salt ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : Home salt seems to be fairly good.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Is it *better* than foreign salt ?

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MR. P GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot say it is *better*.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is it on account of the impurity of the brine or on account of the dirty way in which the manufacturers manufacture it that the salt gets bad?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): There is not one variety of home salt, there are serveral factories, and several qualities of salt also. So, one answer is not possible to that question. There are some factories from which we get very good salt, salt which is even superior to Bombay salt.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): So, the brine supplied also differs with reference to particular factories?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is there only one variety of foreign salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Bombay salt and Tuticorin salt, these are the two varieties that we usually import.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The Excise Commissioner was saying that some varieties of home salt are even much better than foreign salt.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know whether there are many varieties of foreign salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Does the member remember that last year, in reply to a question put by Mr. Piraviperumal Pillai, he stated that home salt was superior to foreign salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Unless I am told the question also I cannot remember what I said.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is the *Puthallom* salt inferior to salt produced in other factories?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Probably, under chemical analysis there may not be much difference. But *Puthallom* salt is not attractive enough in the market. It is reddish in colour and powdery also. There lies the difference.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether we import foreign salt which is inferior to home salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not one quality of salt that we import. Last year, out of the salt that we imported from Tuticorin, some was good, some was bad.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether bad salt was imported?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) Whenever it is found that the salt imported is bad, we reduce the contractor's price.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): But, we have fairly good home salt.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): It is only when our supply is insufficient that we import.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): May I know whether the licensees may not be given, as their share, a share of the salt manufactured? I think in factories under the modified system the manufacturers are given a share of the salt manufactured.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): In modified factories Government take only a limited quantity.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): So, in such cases are they allowed to remove their salt freely on payment of duty?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Freely, without any difficulty whatsoever.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Some years ago we heard complaints that the complete share of a licensee was wholly washed away by the floods, because the Commissioner did not, in time, allow the licensee to remove his salt.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The salt that falls to the share of the Government cannot be removed in the year in which it is manufactured. The salt of this year can be transported only next year. The delay in the removal is only in the case of Government salt.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): I only want an assurance from the Excise Commissioner that the manufacturer would not be handicapped in removing his salt in time, of course, on payment of duty.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): We even permit them sometimes to remove their salt *before* payment of duty that is, under bond. There is no difficulty at all in that matter.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is the Monopoly system in existence in British India?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not quite sure.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Does the Excise Commissioner advocate the continuance of the Monopoly system here?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): It does not seem to me to be very advantageous. But, there are some licensees who want to stick to it and do not want to change it for the better system, the modified system.

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MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): With regard to the modified system, is the learned member aware that in British India the Government do not take any share at all?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): In British India also they do not give the whole of the salt to the manufacturer. The system there is quite different from the system here.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): The system there is that the Government do not take any share. Does the Excise Commissioner suggest that it is necessary for us to adopt a system which is not in conformity with what is obtaining in British India?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): In this particular matter, we have to do it. In British India, there is train convenience. People, even in remote places, can get salt whenever they want, from places where it is available. Transport is not so easy here.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): In British India, the share, corresponding to the share that Government take here, does it not go to the individual producer?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): No, the Government reserve it.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): They do not *take* it. They simply *reserve* it.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): But here, in the interest of the public, we have to take it.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Let alone public purposes. It certainly injures the producer so far as *his* income is concerned. Does it encourage or discourage the salt industry in Travancore? Are not the Government now taking away a lion's share of the manufacturer's income?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): No. It is not lion's share that we take. It is a very poor share. For each factory, there is a proportion that we have fixed.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): What is his standard in fixing the proportion?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The yield is the standard.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): How does he calculate the yield in the case of each factory?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): There is the acreage.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): I do not press the motion. I withdraw it.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

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PRESIDENT: It is 2-10. We will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at 2-40.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-10 P. M. and met again at 2-45 P. M.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE TIME OF ELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Sir, we have been asked to elect three members for the Finance Committee this evening. I request that you will very kindly allow us to do it on the 14th August.

As Mr. Madhavan Pillai's request was not objected to by the House, the President allowed it.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

Motion 74.

The following motion was not made :—

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,345 for Salt Factories by Rs. 100.

Motion 75.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs 1,13,375 for Supplies and Services and contingencies by Rs. 10,000.

It is only a few minutes back that the Excise Commissioner said that the quantity of foreign salt we import is becoming less and less. Last year, Sir, under this item there was a provision for only Rs. 81,429. Now, when the quantity has gone down, I do not see any reason why rupees one lakh and odd has been provided this year. So, I move to reduce the provision by Rs. 10,000.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I have already stated that I intend to transport more of home salt to Alleppey and Quilon. That explains why more money is demanded this year. To be more precise, I intend to transport this year about three lakhs of maunds of home salt. The quantity that was transported last year was much less. Further, there is one more point which has to be borne in mind. This is an item which is not meant for actual *expenditure*. It is only an advance that is asked for. I spend money only on what I am able to transport. If I do not transport, I do not spend it. It is what is called Expenditure under "Service Head".

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Is this provision intended for the transport of home salt alone?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. This year, more home salt is available for transport at Tamarakulam. We have to transport it to Alleppey.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Have you any stock at Alleppey?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): We have.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Has it been found insufficient?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): That would suffice only for three or four months. We require every year about six lakhs of maunds of salt for Alleppey alone.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 76 to 80.

The following motions were not made:

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI:

76. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,16,673 for Salt Business by Rs. 100.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED:

77. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,81,444 for Salt by Rs. 10.

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI:

78. To reduce the allot nent of Rs. 1,81,444 for Salt by Rs. 100.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI:

79. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,81,444 for Salt by Rs. 100

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI:

80. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,844 for Clerical Staff by Re. 1.

Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

80. A. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,988 for establishment by Rs. 5.

Motion 81.

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,988 for establishment by Rs. 10.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): കമ്മീഷണരുടെ എസ്റ്റാബ്ളിഷ്മെൻറു വകക്കു ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഫ ഒ ,ൻ വ വ രൂപായിൽനിന്നും പത്തു രൂപാകുറക്കണമെന്നുള്ള എൻെറ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഇവടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രധാനഉദ്ദേശം ഈ ഇട ബീഡി പ്പുകയിലക്കു കുട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ഡ്യൂട്ടി വളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്നും അതിനെ കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നുമുള്ള സംഗതിയെ ഈ കൌൺസലിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനു മാത്രമാണു്.

MR. V. J. JOSEPH (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ബീഡി പ്പുകയിലക്കു മാത്രമെ ഡ്യൂട്ടി കൂട്ടീട്ടുള്ളൂ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അതിനുമാത്രമല്ല. ചുരുട്ടു സിഗാറ്റ് മുതലായവകൾക്കുമുണ്ടു്. അവ അന്യസ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നു വരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിനെപ്പറ്റി നിർബന്ധിച്ചു പറയണമെന്നു ഞാൻവിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ബീഡി പ്പുകയില തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽവന്നിട്ടു് അതിനെ അനേകായിരം ജനങ്ങൾ തൊഴിലായി സ്വീകരിച്ചു് ഉപജീവനം കഴിച്ചുവരുന്നു. അതിനു് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ള ഡ്യൂട്ടിനിമിത്തം കച്ചവടത്തിനുവലുതായ ദോഷം സംഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഉദ്ദേശിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന ഫലവും കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്രകാരമായാൽ ആ തൊഴിൽ നശിച്ചു പോകുമെന്നുള്ളതിനാൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. നീലകണ്ഠപിള്ള

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[Mr. P. S. Mahomed]

യുടെ ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള പൊതുനിരൂപണത്തിൽ ഈ ഡ്യൂട്ടിനി ശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതു് ഒരു തത്വത്തേയും ആശ്രയിച്ചല്ല എന്നു് സൂചിപ്പിച്ചു. ഈ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ പുകയില വഴ്ത്തിൽ വിലക്കൂടുതലായിട്ടു് സാധാരണ അറിയപ്പെടുന്നതു് യാപ്പാണം പുകയിലയെയാണു്. ഈപുകയിലക്ക് ൧൫൦ രൂപാമാത്രമെ ഡ്യൂട്ടിനിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളൂ. അതിന്റെ അപ്രേജ്മാക്കറ്റ് വില കണ്ടിക്ക് ൩൦൦ രൂപയോളം വരും. ഇപ്പോൾ മാക്കറ്റ് പ്രൈസിൽ ൧/൩ മാത്രമെ ഡ്യൂട്ടിയായിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. ബീഡിപ്പുകയിലക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ ഡ്യൂട്ടിക്കുട്ടിയതിനു് ശേഷം കച്ചവടക്കാർ വളരെശ്രമിച്ചു് വില്പന നടത്തിയിട്ടും ൧൫ അണയിൽക്കൂടുതൽവിലയ്ക്കു വില്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. കച്ചവടക്കാർ ഈ വില കൊട്ടുത്തു വാങ്ങിയാലും ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നവക്കു ശരിയായപ്രതിഫലംകിട്ടാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ആ കണക്കിനു് കണ്ടിക്ക് ൪൫൦ രൂപാ മാത്രമെ വിലയുള്ളൂ. അതിനുള്ള ഡ്യൂട്ടി കണ്ടിക്ക് ൨൫൨ രൂപയാകുന്നു. അതായതു് മാക്കറ്റ് വിലയിൽ ൫/൯ ഭാഗം ഡ്യൂട്ടി ആകുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതിന്റെ ഇൻവായിസ് പ്രകാരമുള്ള വില നോക്കിയാൽ ൨൦൦ രൂപായിൽ കൂടുതലുള്ളൂ. ബീഡിപ്പുകയില കാണുന്നില്ല. അതിനു് താരിപ്പ് വില ഇപ്പോൾ നോക്കിയാൽ കണ്ടിക്ക് ൩,൧൫൦ രൂപായുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ വിദേശിയർ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള സിഗററിന്റെ ഇൻവായിസ് വില അനുസരിച്ചു് ഡ്യൂട്ടി തീർത്താൽ മതിയാകും എന്നു വച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. സിഗററിന്റെ ജോലിമുഴുവൻ ചെയ്യുന്നതു് വിദേശങ്ങളിലാണു്. അതു ഇവിടെ ചിലവാകുന്നതു നിമിത്തം തൊഴിൽ വല്ലിക്കുന്നതും വിദേശങ്ങളിലാണു്. ഈ ദേശക്കാക്ക് അതുകൊണ്ടു ദൃഷ്യമല്ലാതെ ഗുണമൊന്നുമില്ല. ബീഡി ശേഷമുള്ള പുകവലിയേക്കാളും ദോഷം കുറഞ്ഞതാണു്. ൧൦ൻ മകരം ൯ൻ- ഈപുകയിലക്കെല്ലാം തീരുവനിശ്ചയിച്ചിരുന്നു. അക്കാലത്തു് ബീഡിപ്പുകയിലക്ക് തീരുവനിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടില്ലായിരുന്നു. അന്നു ചുമത്തിയിരുന്നതീരുവ ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യൻട്ടുബാക്കൊവിനും ൯൦ രൂപായും ഉയന്ന ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ട്ടുബാക്കൊവിനു് ൩൫൦ രൂപായും സിഗാറിനു് ൩൫൦ രൂപായും സിഗററിനു വരുപായുംആണു. ഇതിൽനിന്നും ബീഡിപ്പുകയിലക്ക് ആ കാലത്തു് പ്രത്യേകമായിട്ടു തീരുവ ചുമത്തിയിട്ടില്ല എന്നു് കാണാവുന്നതാണു്. എന്നാൽ അതിനുശേഷം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പുകയിലക്കുള്ള ഒരു കരം ഇതിന്മേൽ ചുമത്തിവന്നിരുന്നു. ആ ന്യൂനതയെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു് ൧൦ൻ കക്കടകം ൧൫൦- പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു സക്കുലർ ഗസററിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്തു. അതായതു് ഇൻഡ്യൻ ട്ടുബാക്കൊവിനു്

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രണ്ടു രൂപാ താരിപ്പ് വിലയായിട്ട് പ്രഖ്യാപനംചെയ്ത പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു വിജ്ഞാപനം പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തി. ആ സക്കുലർ പ്രകാരം നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ബീഡി പുകയിലക്കും രണ്ടു രൂപാ മാത്രമെ തീരുവവയ്ക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഉദ്ദേശമുള്ളു എന്ന് കാണാൻസാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതിനെഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറ് മേധാവികൾ വകവയ്ക്കാതെ മൂന്നു രൂപാ എട്ടണയായി ഉയർത്തിവാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടു വരുന്നു. അതിനും പുറമെറാത്തലിന് ഒന്നേമുക്കാൽ രൂപാക്രട്ടുമ്പോൾ ൪-൫/൮ രൂപാആകുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതുവളരെ അക്രമമായിട്ടുള്ള തീരുവ ആണ്. ഈതീരുവ കൊണ്ട് എന്തു ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുവൊ ആ സംഗതി വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ സിദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ല എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല ഈ നാട്ടിലെ പല തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കും തൊഴിലില്ലാതെ ആകുന്നതിനു ഒരു പ്രധാനസംഗതിയായിക്കൂടി തീരുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ രൂപസന്ദർഭമനുസരിച്ച് നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ പതിവിൻപ്രകാരമുള്ള താരിപ്പ് ക്രട്ടുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഫെബ്രുവരി മാസം ൨൮-ാം തീയതിയിലെ വിജ്ഞാപനം അനുസരിച്ച് മൂന്നു രൂപായിൽ ക്രട്ടുതൽ തീരുവ വയ്ക്കാൻ പാടില്ലഎന്നും രണ്ടു രൂപാ മാത്രമെ വിജ്ഞാപനം അനുസരിച്ച് ഡ്യൂട്ടിയായി ഈർപ്പെടുത്താൻ പാടുള്ളു എന്നും കാണാവുന്നതാണു.

MR. H. B. MAHOMED ROWTHER (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*) : ഇപ്പോൾ ഡ്യൂട്ടി ക്രട്ടാൻ കാരണമെന്താണ്?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഡ്യൂട്ടി ക്രട്ടുന്നതിനു രണ്ടു സംഗതികളാണുള്ളതു്. ഒന്നാമതു് ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ ഡ്യൂട്ടി ക്രട്ടുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അതു നിമിത്തമുള്ള ദുഷ്യങ്ങളെ ഇല്ലായ്മ ചെയ്യാമെന്നാണ്. അതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഒരു പാളിസിയാണ്. രണ്ടാമതു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് കുറെപണം കിട്ടണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അതിൽ ആദ്യത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശം ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കണക്കനുസരിച്ച ഒരു ബീഡിക്കു ഒരു കാശു് ക്രട്ടുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. അതിനെക്കാൾ നല്ലതു് ബീഡിപ്പുകയില എന്ന സാധനം ഇവിടെ വരുത്താനെ പാടില്ലെന്നു വയ്ക്കുകയാണ്.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Changanachery cum Peermade*) : തീരുവകുറച്ചാൽ അതിൻെറ വിലുന കുറക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*) : തീരുവചുമത്തുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു ആളുകളെ പുകവലിയിൽ നിന്നും പിൻവലിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. നേരെമറിച്ചു തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ തൊഴിലിനെ മാത്രം ഇല്ലാതാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും. സിഗറാറ് വലിക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ ൦രം നാട്ടിലെ തൊഴിലാളികൾക്ക് തൊഴിലില്ലാതാകുകയില്ല.

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MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): സിഗററിന്റെതീരുവയും ബീഡിയുടെ തിരുവയോടൊപ്പം കൂട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നോ തുല്ല്യമായി കൂട്ടിയിട്ടില്ലന്നോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): ചുരുട്ട പുകയിലക്കും വിലകൂട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ചുരുട്ട പുകയിലക്ക് ബീഡി പുകയിലയോട് തുല്ല്യമായിക്കൂട്ടിയതായിട്ടറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. വടക്കന്നം യാപ്പാണവും പുകയിലകൾക്ക് വിലകൂട്ടീട്ടില്ല.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): ഇപ്പോൾ സിഗററിന്റെ വിലകൂടുതലുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): സിഗറെറ് പല ജാതിയുണ്ട്. കൂടിയും കുറഞ്ഞും ഇരിക്കും.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): ബീഡി അത്യാവശ്യമായ സാധനമാണോ? അതൊരു ലക്സുറിയല്ലേ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ബീഡി അത്യാവശ്യമായ സാധനമാണെന്ന ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. അത് അത്യാവശ്യസാധനമല്ലെന്നും അതിനെ ക്ഷണിച്ചു വരുത്തി ഇവിടെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കണമെന്നും എനിക്കുദ്ദേശ്യമില്ലെന്ന എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചാൽ മനസ്സിലാകും. ബീഡി പുകയില ഇവിടെ വേണ്ടെന്നുവച്ചാൽ ആ തൊഴിൽ മറെറ രാജ്യക്കാർ സ്വീകരിച്ചു സാമാനംഉണ്ടാക്കി ഇവിടെ അയക്കും. അതുകൊണ്ടതതിനെ തടയാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു നാട്ടുകാർ ഇതിൽനിന്നമുള്ള ആദായം എടുക്കരുതോ?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): അതിന്റെ ഇലയും പുകയിലയും വിദേശങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും വരുന്നതാണെന്ന് മെംബർക്കു അറിയാമോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അതിന്റെ ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നത് ഇവിടെയുള്ളവരാണ്.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): ബീഡി പുകയിലക്ക് മാത്രം തീരുവ കുറക്കണമെന്നെയുള്ളൂ, അതല്ല മറെറ പുകയിലയുടേയും തീരുവ കുറക്കണോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): എന്റെ മോഷൻ ബീഡി പുകയിലയെ മാത്രമേ ബാധിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഇതു നിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഒരു തൊഴിലുണ്ടാകുന്ന എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ മറെറ തരത്തിലു

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ള്ള ദുഷ്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ തന്നെയും അതു സഹിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. എന്തായാലും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഇതിനെ അശേഷം നശിപ്പിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Changanachery cum Peermade*) : കഞ്ചാവു് കൊണ്ടുണ്ടാക്കുന്നസുഖസാധനങ്ങളും നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടുകാർധാരാളം മുമ്പു ഉപയോഗിച്ചിരുന്നില്ലെ? തെഴിലിനായി അതും വീണ്ടും പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കേണമെന്നു അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): കഞ്ചാവിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ഒരു മോഷൻ ഇവിടെയില്ല. ആ സംഗതിയെക്കുറിച്ചു എനിക്കറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : അതുപയോഗിച്ചു് പരിചയിച്ചവക്കു് അതില്ലാതിരിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അതിനെപ്പറ്റി അതുപയോഗിച്ചു് പരിചയിച്ചവക്കെ അറിയാൻപാടുള്ളു.

MR. T. C. KEASVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): ബീഡിപ്പുകയില തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു് വല്ല വിരോധവുമുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യാമൊ പാടില്ലയൊ എന്നു് ഞാൻ അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടില്ല.

അതിനാൽ ഈ നല്ല കൃപാ വച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പുകയിലയുടേയും താരിപ്പനുസരിച്ചാണു്. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് മേധാവികൾ സാധുക്കളായ കച്ചവടക്കാരെ ഈ വിവരം അറിയിക്കാതെ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പുകയിലയുടെതാരിപ്പ് വിലപ്രകാരംഇതിനു തീരുവ ഈടാക്കിവന്നിരുന്നതു അശേഷംനീതിയായിരുന്നില്ല എന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഇവിടെരേഖപ്പെടുത്തികൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : മിസ്റ്റർ പി. എസ്. മഹമ്മദിൻെറ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ കച്ചവട പ്രതിനിധി എന്ന നിലയിൽ എനിക്കു് അനുകൂലിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): സ്വന്ത അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നോ പ്രതികൂലിക്കുന്നോ?

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : സ്വന്ത അഭിപ്രായം ഇവിടെ പറയേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. പ്രതിനിധി എന്നനിലയിലാണു് ഇവിടെ അഭിപ്രായം പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുന്നതു്. ബീഡി പുകയിലക്കു് തീരുവ കുട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് രണ്ടുപ്രകാരത്തിൽ കച്ചവട

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[Mr. V. J. Oommen]

ക്കാക്കു നഷ്ടമുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു. കച്ചവടക്കാരധികവും കാൺട്രാക്ട് എടുത്താണു് നടത്തുന്നതു്. അപ്രകാരം പതിനായിരം രൂപായുടെ ചരക്കു അന്യദേശത്തുനിന്നു് വരുത്തി സ്ഥലത്തെ ഒരു കച്ചവടക്കാരനുമായി ഇന്നവിലയ്ക്കു കൊടുക്കാമെന്നു മുൻകൂട്ടി കാൺട്രാക്ട് ചെയ്തിരുന്നു എന്നു് വിചാരിക്കുക. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഇരിക്കുന്ന സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു് കൂട്ടത്തായി തീരുവകൂട്ടിയാൽ ആ കൺട്രാക്ട്ടുക്കു് നഷ്ടം വരാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെല്ലൊ.

സാധാരണതന്നെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം കച്ചവടക്കാരും ഫ്ൎവേർഡ് കൺട്രാക്ടസാണു് ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതിനാൽ ഇങ്ങിനെയും ഒരു നഷ്ടം അവൎക്കുണ്ടാക്കരുതു്. രണ്ടാമതു് ബീഡി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു് ഭൂരിപക്ഷവും വലിയ സ്ഥിതിയും നിലയുമില്ലാത്തവർ ആണു്. ഉയൎന്നനിലയിലുള്ളവരിൽ ചുരുക്കം ചിലർ ബീഡി ഉപയോഗിക്കുമായിരിക്കാം. എങ്കിലും ഭൂരിപക്ഷവും പാവപ്പെട്ടവരാണു് ഇതു് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു്. അങ്ങിനെ ഉള്ളവൎക്കു് കൂടുതൽവിലകൊടുത്തു് വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഒരുകയ്യും വരികയില്ല. കൂടാതെ നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലുള്ള അനേകം പേരുടെ ഉപജീവനമാൎഗ്ഗം ഇല്ലാതാകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ബീഡി പുകയില വരുത്തി ഇലകൊണ്ടു് തെറുത്തുകെട്ടി കൊടുക്കുന്നതു ഉപജീവനമാൎഗ്ഗമായി അനേകംപേർ സ്വീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. തീരുവകൂട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിന്റെ ചിലവു വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുകയും ആ തൊഴിലുകാൎക്കു് ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിനു ഇടയാകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതാണു്.

MR. H. B. MAHOMED ROWTHER (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): ഈ ഡ്യൂട്ടി കൂട്ടുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ബീഡിവലി കുറയ്ക്കാൻസാധിക്കുമൊ?

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ബീഡി പുകയിലക്കു് തീരുവ കൂട്ടിയാലും ബീഡിവലി കുറയുകയില്ല.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOILTAMPURAN (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): ബീഡി പുകയില ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണോ അധികം ദോഷം, അതല്ല സിഗററിനാണൊ ദോഷമധികം?

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): രണ്ടിലും ദോഷമുണ്ടെന്നതന്നെയാണു് വിദഗ്ധന്മാരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പ്രതികൂലിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ എന്റെ മനസ്സു് അനുവദിക്കുന്നില്ല. ബീഡി, ചുരുട്ടു് എന്നിവയെ കാലക്ഷേപമാൎഗ്ഗമായും തൊഴിലായും സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കുറെ ആളുകൾ നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലുണ്ടു്. അവൎക്കു് മറെറതെങ്കിലും ജോലി കൊടുത്തിട്ടെങ്കിലും ബീഡിയെ നമ്മുടെനാട്ടിൽനിന്നും കളയേണ്ടതാണു

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നാം ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഈ ബീഡിയും ചുരുട്ടും നമ്മുടെ സ്ത്രീകുട്ടി കൾപോലും വാങ്ങി ഉപയോഗിച്ച് അവരുടെ ബുദ്ധിയേയും മനസ്സിനേയും ശരീരത്തിനേയും ദുഷിപ്പിച്ചുകളയുന്നു. ഇതു വെറും ഒരു സുഖസാധനം മാത്രമാണ്.

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): കഞ്ചാവ് വലിക്കുന്ന കുട്ടികളും ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): അതും കണ്ടേക്കാം. കഞ്ചാവും ഇവിടെ വരുത്തരുതെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. എന്നാൽ ഔഷധങ്ങൾക്കുമാത്രം കുറേവരുത്തിവയ്ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വിരോധമില്ല.

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): കള്ളും ചാരായവും ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിനായി വരുത്താറുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): അതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ച് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായമെന്താണെന്നു ഇവിടെയിരിക്കുന്ന മെംബർമാരും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരും ഗവണ്മെൻറും അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): അതും നിർത്തിക്കളയാമെന്നാണോ മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നതു?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): അതും തടയേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴും തടഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു് ഇന്നത്തെ മെമ്പറന്മാർക്കും അറിയാമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. നാട്ടിന്റെ ഭാവിശ്രേയസ്സിനുവേണ്ടി അതിന്റെ പ്രചാരത്തെ തടയേണ്ടതു എല്ലാവരുടേയും പ്രത്യേകകടമയാണ്.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഒരുകാശു വിലയുള്ള ബീഡിക്കു് ഒന്നരകാശാക്കിയാൽ ബീഡിവലികുറയുമോ?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): ഏറെക്കുറെ കുറയുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. അതിന്റെ വില കൂട്ടുംതോറും ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യം കുറയുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. ലാഭത്തിനു കിട്ടുംതോറും അതു ഉപയോഗിക്കാനുള്ള ആഗ്രഹവും വർദ്ധിക്കും. പതിവായി രണ്ടു പണമിട കുറുപ്പുപയോഗിക്കുന്ന ഒരാൾ അതിന്റെ വില കൂട്ടുമ്പോൾ അര പണമിടയേ ഉപയോഗിക്കയുള്ളൂ.

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE (*Minachil cum Devicolam*): അതുകൊണ്ടു കുറുപ്പിനു വില കൂട്ടണമെന്നാണോ പറയുന്നതു്?

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MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*) : അതേ. ക്രമേണ ഈ കറുപ്പി നെ ഈ നാട്ടിൽനിന്നും പലായനം ചെയ്യിക്കണം എന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : കള്ളും ചാരായവും പന്തീരായിരം ഗ്യാലൻ ഈ ആണ്ടിൽ ക്രടീട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നറി യാമൊ?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): അത് അതിന്റെ വില ക്രടിയ തുകൊണ്ടല്ല. നേരെ മറിച്ച് ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കനുസരിച്ച് സാധനങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള എക്സൈസ് നയത്തിന്റെ ദൃഷ്യം കൊണ്ടാണ്. നെല്ലും അരിയും ആവശ്യത്തിനനുസരിച്ചു നാകുന്നതിനു പ്രാപ്തിയില്ലാ തിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ വിഷസാധനമായ കള്ളും ചാരായവും ആവശ്യം പോലെ കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിക്കുന്ന ഈ നയത്തെ മാറണമെന്നു എ ക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരോട് ഞാൻതന്നെ ഉപദേശിക്കയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): വിദേശമ ദ്യങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള തീരുവ കുറവോ ക്രൂടുതലോ?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): ഞാൻ അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ചോദ്യം ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിനു മറുപടി കിട്ടീട്ടില്ല. മറുപടി കിട്ടികഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പറയാം.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): ഈ തീരു വ ക്രൂടിയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ബീഡിവലി കുറയുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കു ന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): തീച്ചയായിട്ടും ക്രമേണ കുറയു മെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. പക്ഷെ അതു് അബദ്ധമായിരിക്കാം. എങ്കിലും എന്റെ മനഃസാക്ഷി അങ്ങിനെയാണു പറയുന്നതു്.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): ഈ തീരുവ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചതു് റവന്യൂ ക്രൂട്ടുന്നതിനാണെന്നു മെമ്പർ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ലെ?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): ഞാൻ അങ്ങിനെ വിചാരി ക്കുന്നില്ല.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): റവന്യൂ സ്വ ല്പമെങ്കിലും ക്രൂട്ടുന്നില്ലെ?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): റവന്യൂ സ്വല്പം ക്രൂടുമായിരി ക്കാം. ഇതൊരു ലക്സുറിയായതുകൊണ്ടു് വില ക്രൂട്ടണമെന്നു തന്നെ യാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. അതിനാൽ ബീഡി, ചുരുട്ടു് മുതലായ ദുർമ്മാർഗ്ഗസാധനങ്ങളെ കഴിയുന്നതും വർജ്ജിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇതു പര്യാപ്തമാ

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യിതീരും. ഇപ്പോഠം ക്രമവിരുദ്ധമായിട്ട് (ഈ പ്രയോഗം സ്വല്പം കടന്നു പോയിരിക്കാം) തന്നെ ഇപ്പോൾ കൂട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്ന നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ താരിപ്പുവില സാമാന്യജനങ്ങളുടെ രക്ഷക്കു വേണ്ടി ഗവമെൻറു കുറച്ചു കൊടുക്കണം. നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ താരിപ്പുവില കുറയ്ക്കുകയൊ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയുടെ താരിപ്പുവില കൂട്ടുകയൊ ചെയ്യണമെന്ന അപേക്ഷിച്ചതനുസരിച്ച് റവന്യു കൂടുതൽ കിട്ടണമെന്നുള്ള വിചാരത്താൽ മാത്രം നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ താരിപ്പുവില കൂട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ട് നാളികേരം വിദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു പോകുന്നതിലേക്ക് തടസ്ഥം നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. വിദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു നാളികേരം പോകുന്നതായാൽ സ്വന്തനാട്ടുകാക്കാണ് ലാഭം കിട്ടുന്നതു്.

ബീഡി മുതലായ സുഖസാധനങ്ങൾക്ക് കഴിയുന്നതും ധാരാളം തീരുവ കൂട്ടി അവയെ നിർദ്ദോഷം ഇല്ലാതാക്കുന്നതു് നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. കൂടാതെ സാമാന്യജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ള സാധനങ്ങളുടെ തീരുവ കുറച്ചും രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഭണ്ഡാരത്തെ പോഷിപ്പിക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു. ഇതുയും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് മി. മഹമ്മദിന്റെ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ പ്രതിക്രുലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, I rise to support the motion on grounds different from those urged by the mover. He is quite right when he stated that there is no definite Excise policy, in increasing the duty or in altering the tariff value of some of these products. Government have recently increased the tariff value of cocoanut and copra. Sir, if we examine the alteration in the tariff values of cocoanut, copra and cocoanut oil during the last thirty-five years, we will see that this variation in the tariff value of copra has been effected as the result of agitations by the mill-owners who have got so many mills and who conduct them for their own profit. In 1069 the tariff value of copra was only Rs. 8½ and that of cocoanut oil was Rs. 14 *i. e.*, Rs. 5½ more than the tariff value of copra. As the result of the agitation of these commercialists, these mill-owners and these capitalists, we see that the ordinary producer, the ordinary cultivator had to suffer inch by inch, and now his condition is completely hopeless. The tariff value of cocoanut oil was reduced from Rs. 14 to Rs. 12 in 1070 and from that to Rs. 10 in 1079 and in 1082 we find that an alteration was made by which the tariff value of copra was raised to Rs. 15 and of cocoanut oil to Rs. 12½. Thus we see that the increase in the tariff value of copra is Rs. 6½ and the decrease in the tariff value of cocoanut oil is Rs. 1½. In 1098 the tariff values of both these were increased by 50 per cent. by which the tariff value of copra rose to Rs. 22½ and that of cocoanut oil to Rs. 18¾. By the persistent agitation of the mill-owners we find that the tariff value of copra was reduced to Rs. 18 and that of cocoanut oil to Rs. 15 in 1102. Sir, the mill-owners were not satisfied even with this. They

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[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

began to set up an agitation and they wanted to increase their margin of profit at the expense of the poor cultivator. We find that resolutions were passed by the Travancore Chamber of Commerce and some others which urged the Government to increase the tariff value of copra still further and to reduce the tariff value of cocoanut oil to a lower extent and the Government had altered the tariff value of copra from Rs. 18 to Rs. 20.

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): നാട്ടിലെ മിൽവ്യവസായം വളർത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനാണ് കൊപ്രായുടെ തീരുവ കുട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതുമുഴുവൻ കെട്ടിട്ടോട്ടെ ചോദിച്ചാൽ ഉത്തരം പറയാം.

Sir, in Travancore this cocoanut cultivation is the staple industry and we find that most of the villagers get on with this cocoanut cultivation. Their main item of income comes from the cocoanut cultivation and more than 80 or 90 per cent. of the people live in villages. What we have to see is whether we should allow them to have their daily maintenance by hard labour or, whether we should increase the margin of profit of mill-owners at the expense of these cultivators. That is the question. It is a question of daily subsistence to the poor cultivator and that of the increase in the margin of profit to the mill-owner. Sir, I will point out that when these mill-owners are taking great advantage the poor cultivator is at their complete mercy. We find that the tariff value of copra is Rs. 18 and that copra is converted into cocoanut-oil and punnac. Suppose 1 cwt. of copra gives 75 per cent. of cocoanut oil and 25 percent. of punnac. For the 75 per cent of oil he has to pay a duty at the rate of 15 rupees and for punnac at the rate of 5 rupees. So the margin of profit even now is very high. Who is to suffer owing to all these monopolies? It is the poor cultivator. He has no machinery to agitate, and he could not move in higher quarters. With respect to this, I will just draw your attention to a quotation which is found at page 114 of the Travancore State Manual from the speech of Lord Curzon.

> "It is the Indian poor, the Indian peasant the patient, humble, silent millions the 80 per cent. who subsist by agriculture, who know very little of policies but who profit or suffer by their results, and whom men's eyes, even the eyes of their own countrymen too often forget to whom I refer. He has been in the background of every policy for which I have been responsible, of every surplus of which I have assisted in the disposition. We see him not in the splendour and opulence nor even in the squalor of great cities. He reads no newspapers for as a rule he cannot read at all; he has no politics. But he is the bone and sinew of the country; by the sweat of his brow the soil is tilled; from his labour comes one-fourth of the national income; he should be the first and the final object of every Viceroy's regard".

Sir, a careful examination of the tariff value of this produce of the cocoanut tree will convince you that the present increase in tariff value is highly inequitable. The tariff value of copra and cocoanut oil must be on the same level. Even then the mill-owners have got a margin

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of profit, because the tariff value of punnac is less than that of copra. So, what I wish to say is that the Government should take up this question very seriously and see that the Government have a definite policy of encouraging cocoanut cultivation in the country and that they are not going to be moved by the agitation set up by interested persons at the loss of profit to, or even the daily subsistence of, the cultivator as regards this staple industry in the State.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*) : മി. പി. എസ്. മഹമ്മദിന്റെ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ എനിക്ക് എതുക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. മിസ്റ്റർ ആശാന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോട് യോജിക്കാം. പൊതുജനക്ഷേമത്തിൽ എതുയോ താല്പ്പര്യമുള്ള ഇന്നത്തെ ഗവമ്മെൻറും പൊതുജന പ്രതിനിധികൾ എന്ന വേഷം കെട്ടിയിരിക്കുണതായ ഞങ്ങളും—

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): "ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ എന്ന വേഷം കെട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്ന ഞങ്ങളും" എന്ന ഭാഗം പിൻവലിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. (Hear, Hear) ഞങ്ങൾ യഥാർത്ഥജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ തന്നെയാണ്.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): മിസ്റ്റർ കുര്യാക്കോസ് പറഞ്ഞതു ശരിയാണ്. ഞാൻ അതിനെ പിൻവലിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ വേഷം കെട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്ന എന്നു പറഞ്ഞതിൽ അല്പം അർത്ഥമില്ലാതില്ല. "വേഷം കെട്ടിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു" എന്നുവേണം പറയാൻ. അതു് എന്തുകൊണ്ടാണെന്നു് ഇപ്പോൾ പറയണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): അതു് എന്താണെന്നു കേട്ടാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*) : ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു് പാസ്സാക്കുന്നതായ പ്രമേയങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നംതന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രയോഗത്തിൽ വരുത്താതെ ഇരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ഞങ്ങളെ ജനപ്രതിനിധിവേഷം കെട്ടിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുമാത്രമേ ഉള്ളു എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു. (Mr. Matthew Murikkan, hear, hear) അതുകൊണ്ടു് ജനക്ഷേമത്തിൽ താല്പ്പര്യമുള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറും ചുമതലയുള്ള ജനപ്രതിനിധികളും നിശ്ചയമായിട്ടും ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങാൻ നിവ്വാഹമില്ല. എക്സൈസ് പാളിസിതന്നെ പ്രൊഹിബിഷനായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ശക്തിയായ് വാദം നടത്തുന്നുണ്ടു്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ദോഷം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന, സിഗററ്റ്ബീഡി മുതലായ സുഖസാധനങ്ങളെയും

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[Mr. L. R. Raja Raja Varma Koiltampuran.]

ഈ രാജ്യത്തുനിന്നും ബഹിഷ്കരിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. എന്നാൽ ബീഡിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച മാത്രമേ മിസ്റ്റർ മഹമ്മദിന്റെ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തിൽ പറയുന്നുള്ളു. യഥാർത്ഥമായി എല്ലാറ്റിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചും ഡ്യൂട്ടി കൂട്ടണമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. സിഗറ്റിനെക്കാൾ ബീഡിയിൽ അല്ലയോ കൂടുതൽ ഉപദ്രവകരമായ സാധനങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നതു എന്നു എനിക്കു ബലമായി സംശയം ഉണ്ടു്. വിഷദ്രവ്യമായ "നിക്കോട്ടിൻ" ഏതിലാണു് ശതമാനംകൂടുതൽ?

MR. V. J. COMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ബീഡികൊണ്ടു ദോഷമാണുള്ളതെങ്കിൽ അതു നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു വരുത്താതിരിക്കയല്ലേ വേണ്ടതു?

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): വരുത്താതിരിക്കണം എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ പ്രയോഗത്തിൽ വരുത്താൻ കുറെ വിഷമമുണ്ടു്. വളരെക്കാലമായി ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനെ പെട്ടെന്നു നിറുത്തുക എന്നുള്ളതു പ്രയാസമാണു്. അങ്ങിനെ തീച്ചപ്പെടുത്തുന്നപക്ഷം അതു് നടപ്പിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ നിവാഹമില്ലാതെയും വരും. ഡയറക്ഷനിലുള്ള ഒരു ഉപക്ഷേപത്തിലാണു് ഞാൻ സംസാരിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിൽ എനിക്കുപല സംഗതികളും പ്രസ്താവിക്കാനുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഒരു "ജ്യൂവനൈൽ സ്മോക്കിങ്ങ് റഗുലേഷൻ" ഇവിടത്തെ ഗസറ്റിൽ പ്രസ്ദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയെങ്കിലും അതു മിക്ക സ്ഥലത്തും നടപ്പിൽ വന്നിട്ടില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴും പല പള്ളിക്കൂടം കുട്ടികളും ആറും ഏഴും വയസ്സുള്ള ചെറുബാലന്മാരും ധാരാളമായി പുക വലിച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. സ്കൂളിൽനിന്നു ഇറങ്ങിവരുമ്പോൾ "വഴിക്കു കാണുന്നകടകളിലെ മനോഹരമായ ഒരുക്കങ്ങളും അവരെ പല തരത്തിലും ഇന്നു ആകർഷിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. പത്രങ്ങളും മറ്റും വായിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവർക്കു ഇതിൽനിന്നുണ്ടാകുന്ന ദോഷം എന്താണെന്നു് ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കാം. ഈ നാട്ടിൽ മാത്രമല്ല ലോകം മുഴുവനും അഡ്വർടൈസ്മെൻറുകൊണ്ടു സിഗറ്റ് മുതലായ ചില സാധനങ്ങളും ജനങ്ങളെ കൂടുതൽ ആകർഷിക്കുന്നതായിട്ടു കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ ആകർഷണത്തിനു ചെറിയ കുട്ടികളുടെ ഇടയിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഫലം ഉണ്ടാകും. ഒൻപതുകൊല്ലം മുൻപു് (ആർട്ടസ് കാളേജും സയൻസ് കാളേജും ഒന്നിച്ചിട്ടിരുന്ന സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ) കാളേജ് വിട്ടു വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളം കൂട്ടമായി വരുന്ന നാലുമണി സമയത്തു ആർട്ടസ് കാളേജിന്റെ മുൻവശത്തുകൂടെ ആനപ്പുറത്തുകയറി ഒരു സായിപ്പു് ആനമാർക്കു സിഗറ്റ് റോഡിന്റെ ഇരുവശങ്ങളിലും വിലകൂടാതെ വലിച്ചെറിഞ്ഞു കൊടുത്തു കൊണ്ടു പോയതായി തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുള്ള മിക്കവാറും ആളുകൾക്കും ഓർമ്മ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കും. അതു

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പോലെ ഒമ്മാറ്റത്തിലേക്കു ആകർഷിക്കുന്നതരം പ്രചരണ വേല ഗവ ണ്മെൻറു അനുവദിക്കാമോ എന്നു ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ഇതിനെ പ്രതി ഷേധിക്കേണ്ടതാണു് നമ്മുടെ ചുമതല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ബീഡി പുകയില കരു തീരുവകുട്ടിയതു ഒട്ടും അനീതിയല്ല. ഗവ്ണ്മെൻറിനു് റവന്യൂ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണം. റവന്യൂ കിട്ടാതെ ഒരു കാര്യവും നടത്താൻ സാധി ക്കയില്ല. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഉപദ്രവകരമായവിധത്തിൽറവന്യൂ കൂട്ടുന്നു എങ്കി ൽ അതു തെറ്റാണു്. ന്യായമായവിധത്തിൽ റവന്യൂ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്ന തിൽ നാം അനുകൂലിക്കണം. സ്മോക്കിങ്ങ് ടൊബാസിറ്റ്സ് വില്പന ക്കു മുൻസിപാലിറ്റികളിലെങ്കിലും ലൈസൻസ് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണം. ഇതു യും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു കൊണ്ടു് ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): I rise to support the motion which has been brought before the House by Mr. P. S. Mahomed. Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan was criticising the policy of Government in regard to increasing the tariff value of cocoanut and copra. I must admit he has represented very well the case from his point of view. Unfortunately most of the non-official members on this side of the House consist of agricultural interests. When discussing questions relating to tariff value, export duty and import duty, it is the duty of the Government to sympathetically hear the views of industrialists and traders. Mr. Damodaran Asan has told us of the variations with regard to the tariff policy during the last 40 or 45 years with regard to the effect of increasing and reducing the tariff value of copra. That itself shows that the Government were not able to commit themselves to a definite policy with regard to this oil industry, which was and which is still today in its most infant stage.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know from the member how many years have passed since the industry was started in Travancore?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): May be about 35 to 40 years.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is the member aware that there are no facilities for directly shipping these articles from Alleppey?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): I take it from the member. The late Mr. P. John brought up this question many a time to the attention of the Government and also to the attention of the Council. Sometimes, the Government raised the tariff value of copra and sometimes reduced the tariff value of oil. When they saw in one year they got more revenue out of cocoanut or oil just for the sake of getting revenue they increased the tariff value for the next year. During the administration of the late Dewan Mr. Watts, just 2 years ago, the duty on copra was reduced from 22½ rupees to 18 rupees. Mr. Watts also brought down the tariff value of cocoanut from Rs. 67½ to

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[Mr. K. C. Karunakaran.]

Rs. 50 for one thousand cocoanuts. He was very careful to see the effect of this increase and reduction in tariff value and then he realised that it was really a great hit to the oil miller.

Another point which I wish to bring to the notice of the House is the position of the oil mill industry in the State.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Has Mr. Watts not reduced the tariff value of cocoanut oil also in 1102?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Yes. The position of the Alleppey mill-owner, that is the Travancore mill-owner, when compared to the position of the Cochin oil mill-owner, is not favourable. As you know, the Travancore Government have not made the Alleppey Port convenient for shipping. So, the Travancore oil-miller has to take his oil to Cochin, which is the recognised market now for the State of Cochin and Travancore also. The Cochin miller is able to gather the copra in the morning; he could crush it by 4 o'clock, he can sell oil in the evening and then pay for the copra the same day. In Alleppey, the copra is stocked, then crushed, transmitted to Cochin, and sold there. The Travancore miller has therefore to invest his money for over 8 days. Taking all these factors into consideration, there is a distinct difference of about Rs. 4 between Alleppey and Cochin. As long as the Government, by some kind of manipulation with regard to the tariff value, are not going to give this difference to the Alleppey oil-miller, the Travancore mll-owner will not be able to compete with the Cochin oil-miller and the consequence will be the closing of over a dozen mills in Travancore. Even today more than 4 mills which were running some years ago are lying closed at Shertallai.

My friends will tell you that even today the Alleppey millers are running their mills at a great loss. I do not mind how the Government approach this question. The only thing I wish to see is that the Travancore mill-owner competes favourably with the Cochin mill-owner. If the Travancore mill-owner is not going to cover up this amount of Rs. 4, then this oil mill industry in the State is bound to be a failure in this country. And as we all know, a lot of money has been invested in this and other industries. The only industry which is being worked by the Travancore men and Travancore experts is—

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is there any difference in the case of crushing in Alleppey and Cochin?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): There is.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): What is the difference?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): I am not now in a position to tell the member.

We have brought this question to the notice of the Excise Commissioner when he came to Alleppey and visited us. We also convinced the then Dewan of the necessity for bringing about a change in the existing

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tariff value. Even after this, I would inform the House that the Excise Commissioner has not gone to the old figures.

Another point is that owing to the reduction in the value of cocoanuts from Rs. 67½ to Rs. 50, a lot of cocoanuts are got out of this country through Aramboly and Cochin. The Cochin miller buys these cocoanuts and converts them into copra. Besides this, he also gets the husks. If you see the statistics, you will see that these cocoanuts are sent out of the country in large quantities. This will affect one of the greatest industries of the State, the coir yarn industry, and the matting industry. We should take precautions to see that not a single husk is going out of the country. That is the main point which I wish to bring before this House.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): വ്യവസായത്തിൽ അഭിവൃദ്ധി ക്കുവേണ്ടിയല്ലാതെ, കാലക്ഷോഭത്തിനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചല്ലാതെ നാട്ടുല്പന്നപ്പൊട്ടി വെള്ളംകോരി നാളികേരപ്പുക്കുങ്ങളും വയ്ക്കുന്നതെന്തിനാണ്, എന്നാണ് വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): I am aware that the cost of cocoanuts has gone down recently. But there are some articles in the world, the prices of which move sympathetically like that of the paddy, tapioca and cocoanut. Because the price of paddy and tapioca have gone down, it sympethetically affected the price of cocoanuts also.

Another thing is that the export of copra is almost *nil* in Alleppey today. In 1927 Messrs. Aspin Wall & Co., alone paid 32,000 rupees as duty on the copra exported. Owing to the difference in prices between the Ceylon copra and Travancore copra,—there is always a difference of from £ 5 to £ 7 between the price of Ceylon copra and Travancore copra—exportation of copra is impossible today as conditions exist. Only then will the price of copra go up abnormally high and only then will it affect the prices of cocoanuts. That condition of things does not exist in the Alleppey market.

Another consideration with regard to this oil industry is that during the war and after the war, butter has become very expensive in Europe. Then most of the oil from this country was exported to Europe for margarine. Now there is a palm tree in Central Africa which yields nuts from which they could get oil. It is less expensive than cocoanut. There is also the groundnut oil which is being exported. After experiments it has been found that this nut could be used for the preparation of margarine. They remove the nasty smell of the groundnut by some means and then it is as good as cocoanut oil. I do not think that in the future, even Europe will go in for our costly Malabar oil. Therefore, I say that we must be very careful in taking up this problem and I would therefore request the Government to bring the tariff value of copra to Rs. 22½. That was the figure from which the Government last reduced it to Rs. 18. Government have now increased the rate to Rs. 20. I would advocate this so as to prevent these husks and cocoanuts going out of the country.

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[Mr. K. C. Karunakaran.]

We approached the Government to reduce the tariff value of cocoanut oil from Rs. 15 to Rs. 13 and I would request the Government on behalf of those mill-owners who have invested so much money in the development of one of the greatest industries of the State, that they should give their careful consideration to this fact and the tariff value of cocoanut oil should be reduced from Rs. 15 to Rs. 13 at an early date.

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): I have to say a word in respect of this motion. I come from north Travancore. None of the arguments advanced by Mr. Karunakaran will apply to places in my constituency. There is no mill north of Arukutty and there is no oil industry. We have only what is called *chekkus*. We are practically surrounded by the Cochin State where there is no export duty. We have not got for the last one year anything more than 40 or 45 rupees for 1,000 cocoanuts. Now, the tariff value, which is already high in our place, has been raised to Rs. 60. As a protective duty there is absolutely no justification to impose it. I am not against helping the oil industry but what I say is, whatever may be done in other taluks, such duty should never be imposed under the present circumstances in places north of Arukutty.

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): പറവൂർ താലൂക്കിനെമാത്രം ഇതിൽനിന്നും ഒഴിവാക്കണമെന്നാണോ മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നത്?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): We are so situated. We are surrounded by the Cochin State. You can never prevent smuggling totally, whatever steps you may take, in Parur. To customs it brings something like Rs. two lakhs. It is not the size of the place but the revenue that it brings, that matters. If Government want money, then we can't help paying this money. But there is absolutely no justification for imposing such a high rate of tariff in places where there is no such industry.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): But why do you not advance a policy which will help your brethren in other parts of Travancore?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): That does not mean that we should be penalised; when people can get more money by throwing their cocoa nuts on to the other side of the border and get 3 or 4 rupees more there I may say that there is no reason why they should lose it.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): In supporting the opposition in connection with Mr. Raman Pillai's motion, I have to place before the Government a few facts. From the report of the Excise Department it is seen that 22 lakhs of rupees is realised as tariff from beedy leaves and beedy-tobacco. If the Excise Commissioner is vigilant in getting the expert opinion of the Director of Agriculture or the Conservator of Forests whether beedy-leaves could be cultivated in Travancore I am sure that would increase the revenue of the State. Apart from that—

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MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*) : മെംബർ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നോ, പ്രതികൂലിക്കുന്നോ?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : I am supporting the motion of Mr. Raman Pillai.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : There is no motion like that (*Laughter*).

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : I am supporting the opposition.

MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : Is the member opposing or supporting the motion ?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : I am supporting the opposition.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*) : ബീഡി പുകയിലപോലെതന്നെ കൂടുതൽ വിഷമുള്ളതായ കഞ്ചാവു കൂടി കൃഷി ചെയ്യാൽ ധാരാളമുണ്ടാകുമെന്ന് വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : ആളായ മുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ഇവിടെ കൃഷി ചെയ്യാം.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*) : എക്സൈസ് നയവും മെമ്പറിന്റെ നയവുമായിട്ട് വ്യത്യാസമൊന്നുമില്ലേ?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : കള്ളുകടിയെക്കാൾ ബീഡിവലി കുറച്ചുകൂടി നല്ലതാണ്.

Out of 22 lakhs of rupees which is got out of tobacco, 5 lakhs is from Jaffna tobacco, 14 lakhs is from Coimbatore tobacco and the rest is from Tinnevelly tobacco. There is another item of a lakh of rupees received by way of snuff. In regard to the 22 lakhs of rupees received from tobacco, Jaffna tobacco alone has to be got down from that place. As regards the Tinnevelly and Coimbatore tobacco, I am sure it could be got from our hills, provided we plant it on our hills. I would suggest that the Excise Commissioner will get the expert opinion from the above-mentioned officers whether such tobacco cultivation could be started on the Travancore Hills.

To add to that, a duty is imposed on Cod liver oil. I hope the Medical Department would instruct the Excise Commissioner to collect such fish oil that could be got from the coast and make experiments on it and thus the problem of unemployment could be relieved to a great extent.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*) : I rise to support the motion of Mr. P. S. Mahomed for the sole purpose of saying a few words with reference to the attitude taken up by Mr. Asan in the matter of the levy of an export duty on cocoanut. It is of no use if you approach such an important question merely from the standpoint of the producer, ignoring other vested interests which have to be taken into account.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know from the Deputy President how our vested interests are progressing for the last 30 years?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): A country like Travancore cannot afford to be a free trade country like England. It is common knowledge that in the early stages of an indigenous industry it does require protection at the hands of Government. There is absolutely no fallacy in that proposition. All Economists are agreed that if particular industries are to find their own ground or to be assured of a future they should be protected at an early stage with some sort of protective duty so that in course of time they may be able to do without protection and compete successfully in the markets of the world.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know, Sir, is it the opinion of the Deputy President, that cocoanut and copra should receive the protective policy so far as Travancore is concerned?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): The question that the House has to consider is whether the cocoanut oil industry requires protection? Are we to continue till the end of eternity to export raw materials for feeding the labour ranks in foreign countries, or, are we, wherever possible, to convert them into finished products and get a better value for our articles, so that the labour that is employed for converting the raw article into manufactured article might be indigenous labour, Travancore labour?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Are not the present tariff values which were existing before this revision more favourable to the mill-owner than when they started the mills?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): That is a question of opinion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Are not the present altered values in 1102 more favourable to the mill-owners than when they started their mills? This is my question.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): It is a question of difference of opinion. Probably my friend is approaching it from one angle. You have to ascertain it as a question of fact, not by a desultory discussion of this nature. You have to ascertain by a series of investigations and enquiry whether the industries stand in need of protection. I say, the country has already committed itself to the definite policy of protecting the industries in the State. Does my friend want to reverse the tariff policy pursued in Travancore for the last 30 years? If he is not anxious to reverse that policy he must concede that the Government were in the right to encourage an industry which deals with raw materials and send them out as finished products. So, protection is absolutely essential in certain cases. A small instance, Sir, I will refer to. The most important industry in that part of the country from which I come is mats and mattings. They were doing a very good business—European business-men started it

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on a very large scale. Travancoreans went in later on. It has become a cottage industry in that part of the country. Similar industries were started in Belgium, in Germany and in America. We were not then in a position to consume the whole of the raw materials produced in the country. First there was a great demand for them. The raw materials were shipped on to all foreign ports like Amsterdam, Hamburgh, New York and to London and from there they were transhipped to other countries. Along with raw materials which we shipped, we were also sending mats and mattings as well. The United States Government and the Governments of Germany and Belgium felt that they could not compete with Indian manufactured goods if a heavy tariff wall was not erected against the manufactured article making it easy for the raw produce to get in. Their theory was that Indian labour was very cheap. We were able to compete in the markets of America until a heavy tariff duty was imposed on our manufactures. Very nearly, cent per cent import duty is being levied in America which shuts out practically all our mats and mattings and yet my friend thinks that our industries do not stand in need of some protection.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Excluding America, may I know is there any other foreign country which is adopting such protection?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Belgium. She has got her own power looms. We cannot compete with them. We are having only hand looms. Travancore labour was relatively so cheap that for some decades people on the coast and in the neighbourhood of Alleppey went on manufacturing mats and mattings which were consumed largely in Europe and America. Things of this kind are much more essential in a cold country than in a country like ours where we use mats and mattings merely for ornamental purposes. Belgium later on began that industry. Germany also went in for it. Is my friend aware what were the circumstances that brought the rise in the price of copra in recent years? Well, Sir, when I went to Alleppey in 1071 cocoanut was selling at Rs. 25 per thousand. We were getting 100 for 2½ rupees. Germany constructed her own oil mills for manufacturing candles, wax, butter and all the rest of it. She naturally bought very largely in Travancore markets. There was competition. The price went up.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know how she paid for the purchase?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): She bought it for a much higher price, took it to Europe, utilised the latest contrivances of modern science for manufacturing it on a cheap basis and was able to compete with the products manufactured by us in our own unscientific methods. It is a question of mass production. They were satisfied with a small margin of profit. They had their own mills. They commanded large finance. Now we are handicapped in several directions. In the first instance we have not got

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[Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.]

enough of capital to buy at the favourable moment and stock it. We cannot afford to finance our industries properly. They have got the latest modern scientific appliances. Their labour undoubtedly is very much more skilled than labour in Travancore.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the policy of protection will improve the condition of labour or the policy of free trade?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): That is a much vexed question. I am not for free trade until our industries are placed on a firm basis. At the beginning of the nineteenth century when England was just building up her spinning and weaving industry they levied a heavy import duty on Indian Calicoes and piece goods to protect her industries.

That gave the death blow to the Indian industry. When Bombay restarted it, England came forward with her free trade policy and India had to levy a countervailing Excise duty. You know when and how it was abolished.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether exchange has anything to do with it?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): There are numerous factories. My friend now wants to adopt free trade. Have we reached that stage?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): After taking all the local conditions in Travancore and our exclusive position so far as international trade is concerned, is it the opinion of the Deputy President that a policy of protection or a policy of free trade so far as raw materials are concerned could be advocated in this House?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): This is only my personal opinion. This has nothing to do with my position as Deputy President of the Legislative Council.

PRESIDENT: The time allotted for the demand is over.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): With your permission, Sir, I will speak a word. I will suggest for consideration by my friends when tabling a token motion like this that important and complicated questions of this character ought not to be dragged in as side issues. If they are really anxious for enlightenment by their colleagues it ought to be in the form of a resolution.

PRESIDENT: The time allotted for the demand having expired all the other motions lapse. The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,43,245 under Demand III Excise Department—be granted.

The grant was made.

The following motions lapsed as the time allotted for the demand had expired.

Motions 82 to 113.

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI:

82. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for travelling allowances by Rs 500.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN:

83. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for travelling allowances by Rs. 10.

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MR. K. PADMANABHA PANIKKAR :

84 To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for travelling allowances by Rs. 10.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI :

85. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for travelling allowances by Rs. 100.

MR. ITTOOP ITTEECHAN :

86. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for travelling allowances by Rs. 100

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

87. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,050 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI :

88. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,050 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI :

89. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,050 for Commissioner by Rs. 5.

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE :

90. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,050 for Commissioner by Rs. 5.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

91. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 1,000.

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI :

92. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 1,000.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

93. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,350 for rents by Rs. 500.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI :

94. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,584 for supplies and services and contingencies by Rs. 300.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN :

94A. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,936 for establishment by Rs. 5.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :

95. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,550 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 4,000.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :

96. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,01,184 for Provincial Staff by Rs. 9,900.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :

97. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,01,184 for Provincial Staff by Rs. 10

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

98. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,74,903 for Excise by Re. 1.

MR. N. R. KRISHNAN :

99. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,74,903 for Excise by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

100. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,74,903 for Excise by Re. 1.

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE :

101. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,74,903 for Excise by Rs. 5.

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI :

102. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,74,903 for Excise by Rs. 5.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN :

102A. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,74,903 for Excise by Rs. 5.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI :

103. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,74,903 for Excise by Rs. 10.

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MR. P. S. MAHOMED:
104. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,74,903 for Excise by Rs. 10.

MR. V. S. KRISHNA PILLAI:
105. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,74,903 for Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. ITTOOP ITTEECHAN:
106. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,74,903 for Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI:
107. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,74,903 for Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED:
108. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,541 for establishment by Rs. 10.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN:
109. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 86,898 for Customs by Rs. 5.

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI:
110. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 86,898 for Customs by Rs. 5.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED:
111. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 86,898 for Customs by Rs. 100.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI:
112. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 86,898 for Customs by Rs. 100.

MR. V. J. OOMMEN:
113. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 86,898 for Customs by Rs. 500.

DEMAND IV—FOREST.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,91,326 under Demand IV—Forest.

The following motions were not moved:

Motions *114 and 115*.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN.

114. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,88,200 for timber and other produce removed from Forests by Government Agencies by Rs. 10.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI.

115. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,300 for elephants by Re. 1.

Motion *116*.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,000 for sowing and planting by Re. 1.

Sir, my object in moving this motion is to discuss the necessity for planting leaf-manure trees and fodder crops in the forests of Nanjanad. We all know that Nanjanad means the land of agriculture; and from time immemorial Nanjanad has been the chief source for the supply of rice in Travancore. Before the opening of the Kodayar project, Sir, we had something like 30,000 acres under paddy cultivation. These 30,000 acres were surrounded by something like 20,000 acres of mountain lands and out of which over 15,000 acres were converted into paddy fields after the Kodayar project. These 15,000 acres which have

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